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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A  
NSC FOR WOOD  
OSD FOR SHIVERS  
CENTCOM FOR CG CJTF-82 POLAD

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TAGS: PREL MOPS AF

SUBJECT: NANGARHAR OFFICIALS PITCH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
TO CENTCOM COMMANDER ADMIRAL FALLON

REF: A. A) KABUL 175  
B) KABUL 203

Classified By: DCM Christopher Dell for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: Nangarhar Governor Gul Agha Sherzai told CENTCOM Commander Admiral William J. Fallon that projects to bring electricity to the province, including irrigation dams with micro-hydro generators along Nangarhar's southern mountains, would increase security. He said short-term supply from generators would make planned industrial parks viable, enabling job creation. He also requested projects to increase irrigation and provide flood protection along the Kunar River. Sherzai committed to continue the fight against terrorism and poppy cultivation. The Provincial Council echoed the same themes, adding a request that Coalition Forces coordinate their actions more closely with local security authorities.

¶2. (C) Nangarhar Governor Gul Agha Sherzai told ADM Fallon during a January 23 visit to Jalalabad that electricity is Nangarhar's greatest need. Sherzai asked for long-term projects, such as a new hydro-electric dam, that would create jobs, saying, "You (the Coalition) are the only ones from whom we can hope for help." ADM Fallon agreed that power is crucial and told Sherzai the U.S. is working with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, as well as Afghanistan, to develop a long-term regional solution, which he has discussed with President Karzai. Sherzai said providing generators would make planned industrial parks viable and lead to increased employment. He claimed business owners would willingly pay for fuel if generators were installed.

¶3. (U) When ADM Fallon asked what development project Sherzai would rank as Nangarhar's top priority, Sherzai replied that at the top of the list were watershed projects with irrigation dams equipped to produce electricity via micro-hydro generators for local business development in remote areas. Eleven sites along the southern stretch of Nangarhar in the Spin Ghar and Tora Bora mountains are already identified for such projects, all of which could be built for a total of approximately \$35 million, Sherzai said.

He asserted that such projects would "make a security difference" in that area, home to insurgent groups, poppy cultivators and narco-smugglers. He also listed flood protection for communities along the Kunar River and increased irrigation in the areas north of Jalalabad as critical needs.

¶4. (C) Sherzai related to ADM Fallon the activities of his recent "Peace Caravan" which traveled to Kabul to demonstrate the eastern region's support for the central government (ref A). He also committed to continue fighting poppy cultivation this year, but claimed he had to dip into his personal funds because the \$15,000 he received from Kabul to support his anti-poppy campaign was insufficient. He requested more financial support from the international community to continue the effort. Sherzai assured ADM Fallon he is determined to fight against Afghanistan's two most dangerous enemies: terrorism and narcotics. He then asked ADM Fallon to pay special attention to the Pakistan-Afghan border.

¶5. (C) ADM Fallon subsequently met with the Nangarhar Provincial Council who echoed the same general themes as Sherzai. In particular, they requested long-term development projects designed to lead to job creation. They pledged to support the anti-poppy campaign, but requested the Coalition coordinate their military and counternarcotics actions more closely with local authorities.

¶6. (U) CENTCOM has cleared this cable.

WOOD